

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An optical reference standard ~~(2)~~ comprising:

~~—an optical reference material (10) characterized in that the optical reference material (10) comprises~~
including a binder (14) ~~and a cereal (12)~~ formed into a matrix to fixedly hold an amount of water, the reference material ~~(10)~~ being constituted with the binder ~~(14)~~, the cereal ~~(12)~~ and the water present in amounts to provide the reference standard ~~(2)~~ with desired spectral, mechanical and temporal characteristics.

2. (Currently Amended) An optical reference standard as claimed in Claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cereal ~~(12)~~ is selected from the group of one or more of oats, barley and wheat.

3. (Currently Amended) An optical reference standard as claimed in Claim 2 ~~characterised in that~~wherein -the cereal is oats in the form of one or other of oatmeal and oat flour.
4. (Currently Amended) An optical reference standard as claimed in ~~any preceding claim characterized in that~~claim 1, wherein the binder ~~(14)~~ is a gelling agent.
5. (Currently Amended) An optical reference standard as claimed in ~~any preceding claim characterized in that~~claim 1, wherein the optical reference material ~~(10)~~ further comprises one or more components ~~(26)~~ selected to vary its optical density.